export control regimes has been reiterated to the US Government. India's exemplary record in not permitting export of these items to countries where it could be used for non-civilian purposes has been pointed out.

(d) Imports by these Indian organisations from US companies have primarily been of diverse items being used for civilian purposes. The value of these imports is a small component of the overall bilateral trade turnover between India and the US which is estimated to be $ 9.917 billion in 1996-97, and was $ 9.35 billion in 1995-96. End-use certificates and import-certificates were being issued even prior to the unilateral imposition of all-pervasive export control restrictions by the US for a small part of BEL's imports from the US.

(e) India's missile programme, including the Prithvi, is an indigenous programmme undertaken in a transparent manner in response to specific security requirements. The US Government is aware of India's commitment to take all steps necessary to safeguard national security.

माल्टा नौका दुर्घटना कांड में संलिप्त पाए गए ट्रैवल एजेंटों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही

185. **श्री इकबाल सिंह:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री 26 फरवरी, 1997 को राज्य सभा में तारांकित प्रश्न 64 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) माल्टा नौका दुर्घटना कांड में संलिप्त पाए गए गैर-मान्यता प्राप्त ट्रैवल एजेंटों के विरुद्ध अब तक क्या कानूनी कार्यवाही की गई है और इस संबंध में कितने व्यक्ति पकड़े गए हैं; और

(ख) इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा आगे की जा रही कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा): (क) केंद्रीय जांच ब्यूरो ने 17-1-1997 को प्राथमिकी संख्या आर०सी०आई०(एस०) 97-ए०सी०यू०(IV) द्वारा मामला दर्ज किया है। माल्टा नाव त्रासदी के संबंध में केंद्रीय जांच ब्यूरो ने अभी तक 16 ट्रवल एजेंटों सहित 18 अभियुक्तों को हिरासत में लिया है और भारत में स्थानीय जांच लगभग पूरी हो चुकी है।

(ख) जहां तक विदेश में जांच करने का प्रश्न है केंद्रीय जांच ब्यूरो ने यह मामला इंटरपोल, एथेंस को पहले ही भेज दिया है और उनकी रिपोर्ट की अभी भी प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है। जांच पूरी हो जाने पर अभियुक्तों पर न्यायालय में मुकदमा चलाया जाएगा।

भारत और अमेरिका द्वारा 10 वर्षों वाला वीजा जारी किया जाना

186. **श्री अखिलेश दास:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत और अमरीका आपसी व्यापार और पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से 10 वर्षों की वैधता अवधि वाला वीज़ा जारी करने की संभावना पर विचार कर रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या प्रगति हुई है; और

(ग) इस प्रकार का वीज़ा जारी करने का निर्णय कब तक लिये जाने की संभावना है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) यह मामला इस समय सरकार के सक्रिय विचाराधीन है।

Progress of the Secretary level talks with Pakistan

187. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a series of Secretary level talks have been held with Pakistan during the past few months;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether some concrete progress has been made in matters of bilateral concern; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) to (d) The first round of the resumed Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan was held in New Delhi from 28—31 March, 1997. The second round of the resumed talks was held in Islamabad from 19—23 June, 1997. A Joint Statement was issued on the conclusion of the second round of talks.

The two sides decided to address, *inter alia*, the following subjects: (a) Peace and Security, including CBMs; (b) Jammu and Kashmir (c) Siachen; (d) Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug trafficking; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields. They also agreed to set up a mechanism, including working groups at appropriate levels, to address all these issues in an integrated manner; the issues at (a) and (b) above will be dealt at the level of the Foreign Secretaries, who will also coordinate and monitor the progress of all the working groups. Both sides further agreed to take all possible steps to prevent hostile propaganda and provocative actions against each other.

The Joint Statement provides the basis for a comprehensive, constructive and sustained dialogue between India and Pakistan. It is the framework under which substantive discussions would take place on various issues. We look upon it as a step forward in our efforts to engage Pakistan on a broad front with the objective of building a relationship to trust, friendship and cooperation.

Advantage of Israeli Defence expertise in Defence

188. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether India propose to take advantage of Israeli expertise in the field of defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): The Government of India pursues a policy of enhancing defence production and research and development with friendly foreign countries including Israel.

Joint Working Groups between India and Pakistan

189. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent meeting of the SAARC at Mala has resulted in Indo-Pak cordiality especially in resolving the Kashmir issue, apart from other benefits which India may be deriving;

(b) whether the Joint Working Groups are proposed to be set-up for detailed studies of areas of conflict between India and Pakistan;

(c) if so, the terms of reference and their objects and scope; and

(d) whether there would be any deviation from the accepted policy which India has been following so far, emphasising no compromise on national security and territorial integrity of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) to (c) The meeting of Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral with Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan. on May 12, 1997 in the Maldives was positive and constructive. The Prime Ministers directed the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries to pursue the resumed Foreign Secretary level dialogue, the first round of which was held in New Delhi in March 1997. In pursuance of this directive, the Foreign Secretaries met in Islamabad from June 19—23, 1997. They identified the following subjects which will be addressed by the two countries: (a) Peace and Security, including CBMs; (b) Jammu and Kashmir; (c) Siachen; (d) Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug-trafficking; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation and (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields. The Foreign Secretaries also agreed to set up a mechanism including working groups at appropriate levels to address these issues. The two sides will now engage to discuss the setting up of these working groups including their composition, terms of reference if and as required, venue of meetings and allied matters. This subject will also be taken up at the next round of Foreign Secretary level talks scheduled to be held in New Delhi in September, 1997.